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OT 502 Grammar and Readings in Biblical Hebrew

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OT502 – Grammar & Readings in Biblical Hebrew – (3 hours) Spring 2003

(T, R // 2:30-3:45PM // M302)

Enrollment Limit: 25

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Please note that this syllabus is subject to revision by the professor.

1. Course Description

This course builds upon OT501 in order to complete the student's introduction to Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax. Prerequisite: OT501.

2. Course Objectives

- 2.1 To master the elements and subtleties of Hebrew phonology.
- 2.2 To determine the range of function based on word formation - morphology.
- 2.3 To further develop knowledge of the Hebrew verbal system, as well as the forms and uses of the verbal derived stems.
- 2.4 To gain facility in using a standard Hebrew-English Lexicon (BDB), theological dictionaries and reference grammars.
- 2.5 To develop basic skills in reading and translating Biblical Hebrew.
- 2.6 To distinguish the basic differences between Hebrew prose and poetry.

3. Course Requirements & Comments

- 3.1. *Attendance*: Faithful attendance is expected.
- 3.2. *Assignments*: Students will receive weekly assignments (exercises from the textbook and translation assignments). Full completion of assignments is essential in order to obtain the learning goals of this course. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned exercises on the day they are due. The instructor will collect the assignments on the day they are due. Feel free to collaborate with others on these assignments, but be sure that all work submitted is your own.
- 3.3 *Late Work*: **Late work will receive no credit unless special arrangements are made with the instructor.** Late work will receive no comments.
- 3.4 *Emergencies*: In the event of an emergency, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible. Absences or work submitted late will be considered unexcused if no notice is given.
- 3.5 *Evaluations*: There will be weekly quizzes during the term (see **Course Outline** below) and one final exam (date TBA). Some of the quizzes will be vocab only. Most

quizzes will have both a vocab and a grammar component. The final exam will be a comprehensive in-class translation exam, which will include parsing.

3.6 Feedback: The faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary is committed to providing “timely and substantive feedback.” According to Seminary policy, the expectation of “timely feedback” is met when students have their work marked, graded, and returned within one week of its submission. This policy is based upon a regular semester, not an intensive term. The equivalent return time for an intensive course would be returning the papers the next day. The professor will try to meet this expectation, though this may not always be possible. The expectation of “substantive” feedback is met when students receive responses that alert them to what they have done well and how they might improve their performance in subsequent work.

3.7 Incompletes: Asbury Theological Seminary’s policy on incomplete work may be found in the *2001-2003 Asbury Theological Seminary Catalog*, p. 29. In brief, the only justifiable reason for an incomplete is an “unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment.”

3.8 Asbury Seminary has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (HBR or **rb**[]) a national Hebrew honor society. Students who earn a grade of “B” or higher in OT 501 and one subsequent ATS course requiring Hebrew will be eligible and encouraged to seek membership in the society.

4. Texts & Software [abbreviations in brackets, cf. Course Outline below]

4.1 Required texts (These are the same required texts used in OT501)

Arnold, Bill T. and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2003. **[GBHS]**

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77. **[BHS]**

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1971. **[HALOT]**

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkley, Calif.: BIBAL, 1987. **[SG]**

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995. **[Seow]**

4.2 Optional texts (I will comment on these resources on the first day of class).

Armstrong, Terry, Douglas Busby, and Cyril Carr. *A Reader’s Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*: Four Volumes in One. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1989.

Baker, David and Elaine Heath. *More Light on the Path*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker. 1999

Chisholm, Robert. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. **[FEE]**

Kelley, Page H., Daniel S. Mynatt, and Timothy G. Crawford. *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1998.

Waltke, Bruce K. and M. O’Conner. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

4.3 Recommended software

BibleWorks 6.0. Hermenueitika, Big Fork, Mont. (available in the Library)

Hebrew Tutor. Parsons Technology.

5. Student Evaluation

5.1. Assignments	30%
5.2. Class Participation/Daily Readings	10%
5.3. Quizzes	30%
5.4. Final Examination (date: TBA)	30%

6. Letter Grade/Percentage Standard (See *2001-2003 Asbury Theological Seminary Catalog*, p. 28, for a description of letter grades [e.g., what is a “B”?]):

A	95 – 100%	C	73 –76.9%
A-	90 – 94.9%	C-	70 –72.9%
B+	87 – 89.9%	D+	67 –69.9%
B	83 – 86.9%	D	63 –66.9%
B-	80 – 82.9%	D-	60 –62.9%
C+	77 –79.9%	F	Below 60

7. Course Outline

Date	Topics	Quizzes*	Assignments	Reading
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review ➤ The Piel Perfect ➤ Intro to BDB 	Q0 Cumulative Vocab Review [1-14,18,20] – Due 2nd week	Seow, 15a, c	<u>Seow</u> , Lessons 15, Excursus A <u>GBHS</u> , 3.1.3.
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Hiphil Perfect ➤ The Perfect with Object Suffixes 	Q1 Due – [15]	Seow, 16a (odd), c (odd); 17a (odd), c (TBA) d (TBA)	<u>Seow</u> , Lessons 16 & 17 <u>GBHS</u> , 3.1.6.
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Qal Synopsis Part I 	Q2 Due – [16 & 17]	Seow, 19a (every 3 rd), c (every 3 rd); Seow 20a (every 3 rd), c (Gen 22:1-2)	<u>Seow</u> , Lessons 19-20 <u>GBHS</u> ,
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Qal Synopsis Part II 	Q3 Due [19].	Seow, 21a(odd), 22a(odd), 23d (Gen 3:1-5)	<u>Seow</u> , Lessons 21-23 <u>GBHS</u> ,
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Piel Imperfect 	Q4 Due – [21]	Piel Parsing Handout; Seow 24b (Deut 5:4-8)	<u>Seow</u> , Lesson 24 <u>GBHS</u> , 2.7; 2.7.1-2
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Hiphil Imperfect 	Q5 Due – [22].	Hiphil Parsing Handout; Seow 25b (Psalm 1)	<u>Seow</u> , Lesson 25 Excursus E <u>GBHS</u> ; 4.2.6.
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Niphal 	Q6 Due – [23]	Niphal Parsing Handout; Seow 26b (Gen 32:22-26)	<u>Seow</u> , Lesson 26 <u>GBHS</u> , 3.1.2.
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Hithpael, Hishtaphel & Oaths 	Q7 Due – [24]	Parsing Practice Handout; Seow, 27b (I Sam 3:7-14), 28b (Ruth 1)	<u>Seow</u> , Lessons 27 <u>GBHS</u> , 3.1.5.
<i>Reading Week</i>				
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Geminate Verbs 	Q9 Due – [25 & 26]	Seow 30a (Isa 6)	<u>Seow</u> , Lessons 28; <u>GBHS</u> ,
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Pual, Qal Passives & Conditional Sentences. ➤ The Polel, Polal & Hithpolel & Uses of yKi 	Q10 Due – [27]	Translate Jonah 1	<u>Seow</u> , Lessons 29 & 30 TBA
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commands in sequence ➤ Uses of waw ➤ Conditional sentences ➤ Uses of yKi 	Q11 Due – [28]	Translate Jonah 2	TBA
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading Hebrew 	Q12 Due – [29]	Translate Jonah 3	TBA
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading Hebrew 	Q13 Due – [30]	Translate Jonah 4	TBA
Finals	In-class Final ()			

* The numbers in brackets represent the lesson(s) in Seow from which vocabulary will be taken for the quiz.